

1 Kings 1:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

Analysis

So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's accession and Adonijah's rebellion, within the book's focus on succession narrative and establishment of Solomon's reign. The temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us'). The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

Historical Context

First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. This passage describes events around 970 BCE during the transition

from David to Solomon.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of clear succession planning and communication in leadership transitions?
2. What does Solomon's consolidation of power reveal about the relationship between justice, mercy, and political necessity?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

Interlinear Text

שֶׁלָמָה	לְקָרְבָּן	וְשָׁלַח	נָ	וְיִרְדֶּה	הָוֶה	לְמִזְבֵּחַ	מִעַל	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ
sent	So king	Solomon	and they brought him down			H5921	from the altar	
H7971	H4428	H8010		H3381			H4196	
וְיָבֹא	אֵלֶיךָ	וְשָׁתַת	לְךָ	וְשָׁלָמָה	הָוֶה	לְךָ	מִזְבֵּחַ	לְכָלְךָ
And he came	and bowed	So king	Solomon	said	H0	Solomon	H1980	
H935	H7812	H4428	H8010	H559		H8010		
לְבִתְּךָ:								
to thine house								
H1004								

